

August 2004

The Oscillator

The Club...wants to be instrumental in helping the prospective and established Amateur to become a proficient communicator in the Amateur Radio Service.

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club

Est: 1978

KK7TN Paragraphs Don Stettler KK7TN

OTVARC SPOTLIGHT:

- Club Meeting - August 11 - Ice Cream
- Board Meeting - August 25
- Lunch Bunch - August 28
- Club Meeting - September 8 - Anti-Terror Preparation
- Board Meeting - September 22
- Lunch Bunch - September 25
- Fifth Wednesday Contest - Sept 29
- Club Meeting - October 13 - 10 Meters is ALIVE
- Lunch Bunch - October 23
- Board Meeting - October 27

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As of late the BPL issue dominates the ARRL agenda. The experts who have studied the issue tell us that BPL will devastate HF ham radio. It was the subject of our July meeting with an informative presentation by Glenn Pelikan K7GWP. Our own Randy Stimson, the Oregon ARRL Section Manager, speaks passionately about the issue at club meetings as well as in his monthly email reports.

With all the testimony from the experts that say BPL would interfere with HF it would seem to be a

"no-brainer" for the FCC to rule against its use. However, that does not seem to be the case. I have been pondering why. After thinking it over I have come to the conclusion that BPL more a political issue rather than technical one for the FCC. Developing a "bold plan for broadband", to ensure staying on the cutting edge of technological change is a priority item on the current administration's agenda. In a speech to Hispanic lawmakers in Albuquerque, New Mexico on March 26, 2004 President Bush said: "This country needs a national goal for broadband technology, for the spread of

broadband technology. We ought to have a universal, affordable access for broadband technology by the year 2007, and then we ought to make sure as soon as possible thereafter, consumers have got plenty of choices when it comes to purchasing the broadband carrier. See, the more choices there are, the more the price will go down. And the more the price goes down, the more users there will be. And the more users there will be, the more likely it is America will stay on the competitive edge of world trade."

It would appear that the administration
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THE PROGRAM - Wednesday, August 11th

We meet Wednesday, August 11th, 7:00 pm, at Beaverton Elks' Club, 3500 SW 104th Ave, Beaverton.

Guests are always welcome at our meetings. This month we'll have a "Summer Ice Cream Social" at our meeting. Its cool in our meeting

room!

Why not come early and enjoy dinner at the Elks' Cafeteria line?

Club meetings offer an opportunity to connect with other hams in person. Bring along a friend!

HAMFests

August 14, 2004

Radio Club of Tacoma Hamfest

Spanaway Washington

www.w7dk.org

Frank Palmer, AC7JY

3817 169th Street, Ct. E

Tacoma, WA 98446

253.539.7772

AC7JY@msn.com

August 21, 2004

Lower Columbia ARA SWAP

Castle Rock Washington

www.qsl.net/nc7p/swapmeet

Bob Morehouse, KB7ADO

PO Box 906

Longview, WA 98632

Phone: 360-425-6076

Email: kb7ado@aol.com

October 23, 2004

SWAP-TOBERFEST

Rickreall Oregon

www.swaptoberfest.net

Bud Smith N7BUD

n7bud@arrl.net

VE Testing Services, Carl WS7L

VE testing sessions are offered in even numbered months. We have three regular sessions left in 2004: August 7, October 2, and December 4. Our regular sessions are held at Hillsboro's Ronler Fire Station across from Hillsboro Stadium on Evergreen Parkway. We meet at 1:00 pm.

It is best to pre-register for the exams. Contact Carl, WS7L, at ws7l@arrl.net or by phone at 503.629.5796.

For upgrades, bring your current license (and a photo copy of it) along with two forms of identification (one government issued with a photo) and your exam fee.

The Volunteer Examiners are a service of Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club and her qualified VEs.

There are other exam opportunities in the area. Send an email for locations and times, w7otv@arrl.net.

Paragraphs, from page 1

views BPL as just another choice for access to broadband technology. As such it would resist interfering with its use. If this is true the approach to stopping BPL must be political. To me that means writing letters to our congressional delegation and others to put the pressure on the FCC to rule against BPL. Please consider doing that.

73

Don

LUNCH BUNCH

Saturday, 1:30 PM

August 28, 2004

Changs Mongolian Grill

1935 NW 167th Place

On Cornell Rd

Near Krispie Kreme

Will and Julie will be at his daughter's wedding and unable to attend this month

Questions or comments

Julie Landers KD7GQW

503.646.1546

ONCE UPON A TIME, AI W7SIC

A personal experience during one of the bunny hunts was when I was hiding at the West Slope Grade School. I chose to lie out in the middle of the play field, flat on my face with a brown raincoat on and a few trimmed poplar tree limbs over me. A couple of kids and their dog almost stepped on my hand as they passed by. A real riot watching the hunters looking in the trees and bushes. I was found when our club president, hiding in the bushes taking pictures, was seen. He was wearing a red stocking cap.

Another activity we began while at the Upchuck was to plan for what would become SEA-PAC. That was the time we lucked out in discovering a member who worked for a copier company. You guessed it. Free copies for us and all we had to do was fold and staple.

We still had to deal with the local post office but what a help it was for our budget. We even had a front page in color for the December issue. High livin. I should note here that our club had no income other than dues. Any activity had to pay for itself. Christmas parties were pot luck. Prizes were donated by Portland Radio and a couple of other sources and if you think about how far dues of \$5.00 could go, you have to wonder how we got by. One nice thing though, is there was no budget to worry about. We didn't have one.

In June 1981 we helped a small group in Seaside conduct a hamfair. They had a handful of people and needed our help in acting as security. This was our introduction to the world of show time and would lead to many changes for the club. More on Seaside in my next episode.

[Third in a series of articles. More to follow]

Travelers', Betty N7REX

There is no August campout for The Travelers'.

September will take The Travelers' to Waterloo County Park near Lebanon. The campout will be September 24 - 26, 2004. Mary N7TRW and AI W7SIC Berg are wagonmasters.

Waterloo County Park is located off Oregon Highway 20, about 18 miles east of Interstate 5.

For general information about The Travelers' contact Betty Mickley N7REX at 503.642.1284 or by email at n7rex@teleport.com

An Exciting Day at the Beach Ed KD7JFB

Rick, KD7NTA, and I were walking on the beach in Coos Bay when we heard a call on public service band that there were 3 kids being sucked out to sea by a rip tide. We looked way up the beach and saw people pointing out to sea.

A surfer was in the water. We knew that rescuers were being dispatched by a tourist who was giving them wrong location information. I ran up the beach. Rick ran to the right parking lot. The surfer brought the kids out. I watched to make sure they were alright and put an emergency call out on the 146.280 repeater.

Jim, AA7AZ, answered. We had trouble with the .28 repeater, but Andy, KD7VCQ, was listening to his radio at work. Andy heard us and called 911. He was on the phone with them as we were talking and relayed the right location and that the kids were alright. I stood and waved in the sheriff when he showed up and then got out of the way so the pros could do their thing.

It all happened so fast. I was amazed at how walking on the beach and playing with radios turned into a way to help out.

How great it is to have a ear listening when you need it.

Radio Scouting Update, Phil Westover, WA7URV

We're in the middle of the summer, with folks off on trips – I'm headed off to climb South Sister with my K-1 for QRP work – but there has been lots of stuff going on at the Radio Program Center on Scouters' Mountain.

We've received a few more donations, including some great aluminum sections for portable masts, plus a couple of audio frequency spectrum analyzers and a couple of 2m H-Ts.

More important, we've confirmed some things for the building up at the mountain. Enough roofing material (3-tab 50-yr shingles) has been donated to cover the whole roof. Enough quarry tile has been donated to cover the entire floor inside the building. A 100-amp service has been run to the building (no box yet, but the cable is there). I understand that a telephone line has been run to the building. So things are moving right along. We are about to plan a couple of work days up there, so be prepared for that!

73,
Phil Westover, WA7URV
Cascade Pacific Council Radio Scouting

Happy August Birthday

- 2 Maybelle Altman-Teck KC7YNN
- 8 John M. Hays KD7OHK
- 10 Peter Barnett KD7TAK
- 16 Jim Blanchard W7HOW
- 19 Russell Graham KD7BSA
Tom Cronin KD7CMI
- 21 Dana Gehm KB6VIV
- 23 Verne T. Smith W7GRN

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2004 PACIFIC NW VHF CONFERENCE

The 2004 Pacific Northwest VHF+ Conference will be held October 1-2 at the Best Western Hallmark Inn Moses Lake. Conference registration is now open.

Cost of the conference is \$25.00 per person, including a buffet lunch. Registration details are available on the web site:
www.qsl.net/pnwvhfs/administration/conference.htm

Special conference lodging rates have been negotiated. Make your reservations early as the block of rooms with special rates will be held by the hotel only until September 1, 2004. After that date, rooms will only be available at the regular rate of \$75.00 To make a reservation, call the Hallmark Inn directly at (509) 765-9211 and ask for the special "PNWVHFS Conference" rate. Using the Best Western toll-free number or web site to make reservations may not guarantee you the special conference rate.

Prior to the conference, PNWVHFS is sponsoring a special "Rove-In" contest to help spread the word of VHF weak signal operation and the annual conference. This will give everyone something to do on the drive in to the conference site and help serve as a "talk-in" as well.

LOYD SIGMON W6LQ SK - Inventor of SigAlert

Lloyd "Sig" Sigmon, ex-W6LQ, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, died June 2. He was 95. Details of the origin of the "SigAlert" vary. According to the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans), the SigAlert got its start in the 1940s when the Los Angeles Police Department got into the habit of alerting Sigmon - then a radio reporter - of bad traffic accidents. His on-the-air bulletins, initially called "Sigmon Traffic Alerts," soon became known as SigAlerts.

Other accounts say the

SigAlert came about when Sigmon, a partner with Gene Autry in Golden West Broadcasting in the 1950s, came up with an electronic system using a tape recorder and a radio receiver to let LAPD dispatchers send bulletins over their regular radio frequency (then 1730 kHz) to broadcasters, alerting them to traffic conditions and emergencies. Activated by the dispatcher, the SigAlert transmission - accompanied by a special receiver activation tone - would notify stations via a red light or a buzzer.

Now in use throughout California, the system—which has become computerized—has been duplicated in other areas of the US. For the invention Sigmon was honored by the National Safety Council, among others. An Amateur Radio licensee from the age of 14, Sigmon started his broadcasting career in the 1930s. During World War II he served on Eisenhower's staff as head of noncombat radiocommunications in the European theater. He retired in 1969. he had not been active since early 2003.

Beware the BPL Buzz , Peter Coffee AC6EN

Bad things happen when ideal IT concepts bump into the realities of imperfect hardware. This time, I'm talking about the slow-motion train wreck of BPL (broadband over power lines), a basically bad idea that's now the subject of a newly launched IEEE standard process.

With lots of people wanting its benefits and few people understanding its drawbacks, BPL seems likely to gain too much momentum to be killed. A win for BPL, though, could be a loss for some valuable applications of the radio spectrum—but you'd never know that there's a serious risk, or even a controversy, if all you saw was the IEEE's cheerful July 20 announcement of IEEE P1675, "Standard for Broadband over Power Line Hardware."

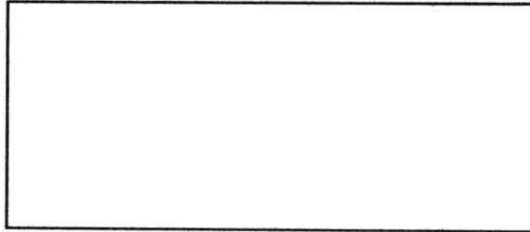
The IEEE announcement calls the BPL proposition "relatively straightforward," saying "A computer-router combination and a coupler take the signal from an optical-fiber cable as it enters a

substation and imposes it on the electric current. The signal travels over the medium-voltage lines, with repeaters placed every 0.5 to 1 mile to keep the signal viable. A repeater/router near a residence or business extracts the signal off the medium voltage just before the transformer and injects it onto the low-voltage wiring on the other side of the transformer. The signal is now on all of the low-voltage wiring within the structure and can be accessed at any outlet by plugging in a modem."

The elephant in the living room prompts my follow-up question: "Where else is that signal accessible—whether it's wanted or not?" Incredibly, the words "radio" and "interference" are not even mentioned in the IEEE announcement, even though the risk of radio interference from BPL is obvious and grave.

[Excerpted from Enterprise News and Reviews, August 2, 2003]

CLUB MEETING AUGUST 11TH



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**Oregon Tualatin Valley
Amateur Radio Club**



CLUB INFORMATION

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

- ⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
- ⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication
- ⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings
- ⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone interested in amateur radio. A license is not required.

Membership dues are \$16/year; Family member(s) of full members at same address \$21/household; Full Time students and members of two years or more at age 70 or older (Life Members) are dues free. See Club Treasurer about purchase of life membership prior to age 70. If you wish to join during the year, dues are pro-rated.

Membership applications may be found on the Club Website or on request from the Treasurer.

The OSCILLATOR is published Monthly for members. The deadline for the September issue is Tuesday, August 24th.

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